

Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division – Region 2

DECEMBER 20, 2012

Brule/Buffalo Counties

Steve Rossow

Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

With the cold weather the river is froze over and has put an end to the shore fishing and boat fishing. The ice is marginal for ice fishing so use caution when going on the ice to ice fish. A reminder that the area between the railroad bridge and I-90 Interstate bridge are closed to fishing from December 1st to April 31st, except shore fishing is allowed on the Brule County side.

Hunting Report:

The pheasant hunting has been spotty bird numbers are down and hunters are having a tough time finding birds. The pheasants have bunched up and can be found in cattail sloughs and tree belts. The river has a good number of ducks and geese.

Campbell County

Doug DeLaRoi

Fishing Report *See Missouri River report below*

Hunting Report: -

Corson/Dewey Counties

Shawn Madison

Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Hunting Report:

Charles Mix/Douglas Counties

Jeff Martin

Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Hunting Report:

Gregory County

Hans Walleser

Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fishing- Ice fishing will begin soon. I have yet to see anyone out yet. The river has not iced over in Gregory County yet. The majority of lakes and ponds have frozen over, but need a few more inches of ice to fish safely.

Hunting Report:

Pheasants are holding up in areas of heavy cover. Hunter pressure is minimal this late in the season.

Deer- Muzzleloader season continues through the month. Only “Antlerless” rifle tags are valid for the West River Deer extension from December 29-January 6. Rifle “Any Deer” tags ARE NOT VALID for the season extension.

Bobcat season is underway. A few cats have been taken in Gregory County already. Remember, they need to be checked in and tagged. The carcass must be turned in when tagged.

Waterfowl- I have yet to see good number of ducks of geese in Gregory County. With lakes freezing over, the river should start concentrating them in the weeks to come.

Hyde/Hand Counties

Cory Flor

Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

If venturing onto the ice please be careful and check the ice thickness every so often as there is often thin spots this time of year.

Hunting Report:

Pheasant hunting is slow. There are still a few hunters but they aren't having good success. There is a good number of grouse and prairie chickens around. Pheasant hunting is hard right now with the rain that fell on top of the snow, areas are tough to get to.

Hughes County

Mike Thorson/John Murphy

Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below.

Hunting Report:

Jones County

Dan Altman

Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Hunting Report:

No Waterfowl

Jones Co. - Pheasants have moved to heavy cover with the onset of winter weather. Expect to find them in cattail sloughs, shelterbelts, and woody cover. Most of the waterfowl has left the area and local water bodies are frozen. Some ice fishing angling has started but the ice conditions are not ideal. Anglers have reported 2 to 6 inches of ice.

Lyman County

Dan Altman

Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Hunting Report

No Waterfowl

Lyman Co. - Pheasants have moved to heavy cover with the onset of winter weather. Expect to find them in cattail sloughs, shelterbelts, and woody cover. Most of the waterfowl has left the area and local water bodies are frozen. Some ice fishing has started but the ice conditions are not ideal. Anglers have reported 2 to 6 inches of ice.

Potter County

Brad Saltsman

Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below:*
Hunting Report:

Stanley County

Josh Carr

Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.
Hunting Report:

Sully County

Andy Schmahl

Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.
Cottonwood Lake: The ice is finally thick enough to fish. Walleyes are biting occasionally. Not many anglers out yet.
Hunting Report:

Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties

Matt Hill

Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below
Things have been quiet on area lakes, they are covered with ice now, but I don't know if it's good enough to start ice fishing just yet. I recommend trying Roosevelt for almost any fish, Rahn for pike or bass, Dog Ear for perch, King Dam for perch or crappie and Beaulieu for Bluegill. Most fishermen are going to the Missouri River, which sounds like it has been pretty good.

Hunting - Pheasant harvest in the Winner area has been down from last year. There are plenty of opportunities to find some late season pheasants around. Keep in mind the birds are going to be a little harder to knock down and will hold tighter with the latest snow fall. I recommend using steel shot #3 and lead shot #4. Waterfowl reminders; use non-toxic shot, get your migratory bird certification and your federal waterfowl stamp. There are descent numbers of waterfowl around, I recommend trying Dog Ear Lake or Snow Dam. Canada Geese season closes December 16th for Tripp, Todd and Mellette County. White-Fronted Geese and Light Geese seasons close December 23rd statewide. Deer harvest has been good and it shouldn't be a problem to find late season deer in Tripp, Todd or Mellette Counties. The west river Bobcat season runs from December 8th - February 15th. Sportsmen who are 16 and older need to have a state furbearer's license to either shoot or trap bobcats. Bobcats need to be checked in with a SDGF&P representative within 5 days of harvest

Walworth County

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman

Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*
Hunting Report:

Missouri River Reservoirs Fishing Report

Lake Oahe *Kyle Potter*

The walleye/sauger/hybrid regulation has changed to allow higher harvest of the abundant walleye during this time of low availability food within Lake Oahe. The regulation is the following: 8 walleye/sauger/hybrids daily of which up to 4 can be greater than 15 inches with only 1 of which can be greater than 20 inches. The possession limit will be 24 fish which may not be possessed without 3 or more of fishing. The higher daily and possession limits will allow anglers to harvest a greater number of fish which may possibly die do the lack of food within the lake.

Ice is beginning to form in some of the back bays when temperatures dip low, but so far all landings are open for boat traffic.

Pollock/Mobridge – Fishing pressure is low with a few boats out on nicer days. Success is fair in the upper portion of Lake Oahe with the Grand, Moreau River arms, and old railroad grade doing the best. Anglers are catching walleye, northern pike, and crappie. Minnow rigs, jigs and vertical jigging around the bridges are producing fish. Catches of small walleye are common. Best depths have been 20 to 35 feet.

Gettysburg – Fishing pressure is low with success is fair in the middle portion of Lake Oahe with anglers are doing well catching small walleye, northern pike, and smallmouth bass. Minnow rigs and jigs the common ways to catch fish. The best depth has been 20 to 40+ feet of water.

Pierre – Fishing pressure is low with anglers are doing fair throughout the region with the Cheyenne River Arm doing the best. Anglers are fishing with minnow rigs and jigs for walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish. Small fish have been the most common fish caught with an occasional large fish. Preferred depths are 20 to 40 feet of water.

Lake Sharpe

Ice is beginning to form in some of the back bays when the temperature dips low, but so far all landings are open for boat traffic. Fishing activity is currently low in the **Pierre** area and fishing success is fair to good throughout Lake Sharpe. Anglers are fishing by boat around the bridges, Farm Island flats, and Antelope Creek areas. Shore anglers are catching a few walleye, channel catfish, and smallmouth bass in the tailrace with plugs and plastic baits on jigs. The fishing is fair in the **West Bend** region with catches of walleye and smallmouth bass. Anglers are doing best with minnow rigs and jigs in 20 to 40 feet.

Reminder the 15 inch minimum size restrictions for walleye/sauger are in effect from September 1st through June 30th each year on Lake Sharpe. The one walleye/sauger over 20 inches daily still remains in effect year round.

Lake Francis Case *Rachel Tribble*

Zone 1 – The recent icing over of the river in this area has put a stop to fishing activity for the time being.

*** Reminder: The area between the railroad bridge and I-90 bridge causeway in Brule and Lyman counties is closed to fishing Dec. 1 – April 30, except shore fishing is allowed from the Brule county side.**

Zone 2 – No fishing has been observed in this area lately.

Zone 3 – No fishing has been observed in this area lately.